

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 8, 11 to 13 and 16 to 18 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1: (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus which is connected to a plurality of printers through a network, which designates a specific printer from ~~said~~ among the plurality of printers, and which transmits print data to ~~said the~~ designated printer, comprising:

intermediate data generating means for receiving a drawing function ~~which~~ is formed by a graphic engine of an OS operating system on the basis of a draw command from an application and generating intermediate data on the basis of ~~said the~~ drawing function;

print condition obtaining means for obtaining print conditions to print a print job of ~~said the~~ intermediate data generated by said intermediate data generating means;

search condition transmitting means for transmitting ~~said the~~ print conditions obtained by said print condition obtaining means as printer search conditions of said printer to a search server;

selecting means for selecting a printer to which ~~said the~~ intermediate data should be outputted on the basis of device designation information ~~which is~~ obtained from ~~said the~~ search server in accordance with ~~said the printer~~ search conditions; and

intermediate data output means for outputting ~~said the~~ intermediate data to a the graphic engine of the OS operating system so as to transfer the drawing function to a printer driver corresponding to ~~said selected the printer~~ selected by said selecting means.

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2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate data output means converts said intermediate data into a draw command which can be interpreted by said graphic engine of the ~~OS~~ operating system and outputs said converted draw command to said graphic engine.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said intermediate data output means designates the printer driver to which the drawing function should be outputted when the draw command is ~~outputted~~ to said graphic engine.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print condition obtaining means obtains said print conditions from said intermediate data and a print setting of said print job.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said print conditions include function information of devices connected to said network.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to a plurality of printers through a network, which designates a specific printer from ~~said~~ among the plurality of printers, and which transmits print data to ~~said~~ the designated printer, comprising the steps of:

an intermediate data generating step of receiving a drawing function ~~which~~ is formed by a graphic engine of an OS operating system on the basis of a draw command from an application and generating intermediate data on the basis of ~~said~~ the drawing function;

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a print condition obtaining step of obtaining print conditions to print a print job of ~~said~~ the intermediate data generated by said intermediate data generating step;

a search condition transmitting step of transmitting ~~said~~ the print conditions obtained by said print condition obtaining step as printer search conditions of said printer to a search server;

a selecting step of selecting a printer to which ~~said~~ the intermediate data should be outputted on the basis of device designation information ~~which is~~ obtained from ~~said~~ the search server in accordance with ~~said~~ the printer search conditions; and

an intermediate data output step of outputting ~~said~~ the intermediate data to a the graphic engine of the OS operating system so as to transfer the drawing function to a printer driver corresponding to ~~said selected~~ the printer selected by said selecting step.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein in said intermediate data output step, said intermediate data is converted into a draw command which can be interpreted by said graphic engine of the OS operating system and said converted draw command is outputted to said graphic engine.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein in said intermediate data output step, the printer driver to which the drawing function should be outputted is designated when the draw command is outputted to said graphic engine.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein in said print condition obtaining step, said print conditions are obtained from said intermediate data and a print setting of said print job.

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10. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said print conditions include function information of devices connected to said network.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for an information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to a plurality of printers through a network, which designates a specific printer from ~~said~~ among the plurality of printers, and which transmits print data to ~~said~~ the designated printer, wherein said program comprises the steps of:

an intermediate data generating step of receiving a drawing function ~~which~~ is formed by a graphic engine of an OS operating system on the basis of a draw command from an application and generating intermediate data on the basis of ~~said~~ the drawing function;

a print condition obtaining step of obtaining print conditions to print a print job of ~~said~~ the intermediate data generated by said intermediate data generating step;

a search condition transmitting step of transmitting ~~said~~ the print conditions obtained by said print condition obtaining step as printer search conditions of said printer to a search server;

a selecting step of selecting a printer to which ~~said~~ the intermediate data should be outputted on the basis of device designation information ~~which is~~ obtained from ~~said~~ the search server in accordance with ~~said~~ the printer search conditions; and

an intermediate data output step of outputting ~~said~~ the intermediate data to a the graphic engine of the OS operating system so as to transfer the drawing function to a printer driver corresponding to ~~said selected~~ the printer selected by said selecting step.

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12. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 11, wherein in said intermediate data output step, said intermediate data is converted into a draw command which can be interpreted by said graphic engine of the OS operating system and said converted draw command is outputted to said graphic engine.

13. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 12, wherein in said intermediate data output step, the printer driver to which the drawing function should be outputted is designated when the draw command is outputted to said graphic engine.

14. (Original) A medium according to claim 11, wherein in said print condition obtaining step, said print conditions are obtained from said intermediate data and a print setting of said print job.

15. (Original) A medium according to claim 11, wherein said print conditions include function information of devices connected to said network.

16. (Currently Amended) An information processing program for an information processing method for an information processing apparatus which is connected to a plurality of printers through a network, which designates a specific printer from said among the plurality of printers, and which transmits print data to said the designated printer, wherein said program comprises the steps of:

an intermediate data generating step of receiving a drawing function which is formed by a graphic engine of an OS operating system on the basis of a draw command

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from an application and generating intermediate data on the basis of said the drawing function;

a print condition obtaining step of obtaining print conditions to print a print job of said the intermediate data generated by said intermediate data generating step;

a search condition transmitting step of transmitting said the print conditions obtained by said print condition obtaining step as printer search conditions of said printer to a search server;

a selecting step of selecting a printer to which said the intermediate data should be outputted on the basis of device designation information which is obtained from said the search server in accordance with said the printer search conditions; and

an intermediate data output step of outputting said the intermediate data to a the graphic engine of the OS operating system so as to transfer the drawing function to a printer driver corresponding to said selected the printer selected by said selecting step.

17. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 16, wherein in said intermediate data output step, said intermediate data is converted into a draw command which can be interpreted by said graphic engine of the OS operating system and said converted draw command is outputted to said graphic engine.

18. (Currently Amended) A program according to claim 17, wherein in said intermediate data output step, the printer driver to which the drawing function should be outputted is designated when the draw command is outputted to said graphic engine.

19. (Original) A program according to claim 16, wherein in said print condition obtaining step, said print conditions are obtained from said intermediate data and a print setting of said print fob.

20. (Original) A program according to claim 16, wherein said print conditions include function information of devices connected to said network.
